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CHAMP CLARK, OPTIMIST

Takes the Bright Sides of Things in His Lecture and in His Political Speech

Sixty-five Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas Democrats Attended Elaborate Banquet of The Liberal Democratic Club at Hotel Cimarron

A good crowd heard the lecture of Hon. Champ Clark of Missouri at the Opera House Wednesday evening. His theme of "The United States of America in the Twentieth Century" was probably the best lecture ever given in Liberal. The guest of honor was met at Meade by G. A. Quinlan, R. T. Nichols, P. A. Craig, Bob Robinson and C. G. Eddy. Immediately after the lecture there, the party started for Liberal in the Craig and Robinson motor cars. At Plains, a large crowd of townspeople and school children gathered in front of the office of Don T. Edwards, the land man. Champ Clark stepped into an open car, and delivered a short speech to the applauding crowd.

The mayor and council occupied the platform with our noted guest. After the introduction by W. H. Feather, the great Missourian opened his speech. From the first, he had the closest of attention. In part he said: "America is another word for opportunity. Our entire history seems to be a last effort in behalf of humanity. If I could give one prayer, and one prayer only for the American nation, it would be that every young man in the country could have sufficient education to read and understand what is printed on the ballot, and have the courage to cast as becomes an American citizen, regardless of party bosses or party whips. This nation

This is the only state which has been admitted without an enabling act and the move is without parallel in history.

"I believe in praising a republican when he deserves it," said Clark in referring to a republican president, "and it doesn't keep me busy all the time."

"Any nation which has a legislative body which controls the purse strings of the country is a free country. If the King of England were to veto as many bills a week as Taft did in 48 hours he would be a fugitive from the British subjects. Now I am not criticizing the President for his veto. He has the power and it is given by the constitution, and it is his privilege. Yet the King of England has the same privilege, though it has not been exercised for two hundred years, and probably never will be."

"I believe that the term of office for the presidency should be increased to six years, and the president forever prohibited from holding a second term. As it is now, the president spends most of the first term in getting to know his election for a second term. That is the reason right now why Taft is making his 15,000 mile swing around the country instead of staying in Washington and tending to the business of the nation."

"I would further have the election late in August, and have the elected members of Congress and the president commence their terms in

statesman, and above all things, a good strong, true, western man.

The crowning event of his visit here was the banquet tendered the noted visitor, at the Hotel Cimarron, by the Liberal Democratic Club. For this occasion, a body of sixty-five of the leading Democrats of the south-western Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas had gathered here. At eleven o'clock, Toastmaster H. V. Tucker of this city, gave the signal to be seated. The banquet tables in the beautiful dining room of the new Hotel Cimarron here, were decorated with a profusion of roses, carnations, ferns and southern smilax. Manager Yetchke of the J. J. Grier Co., was here to assist Mr. Herbert Simons in looking after the guests. The nine courses were served with the smoothness which characterizes only the best metropolitan hostilities. From beginning to end, the service ran as smooth as clock work. The menu was beyond description, a succession of surprises of the most agreeable sort. After the third course, Toastmaster Tucker, with a short complimentary speech, introduced Champ Clark as the next president of the United States. Amidst great applause, the great statesman rose and gave a brief democratic talk of the variety which would make most any man believe in the principles of the party. It was full of humor, satire and good sound logic. He said in part:

"The Democratic party has bet-



HOTEL CIMARRON

stands alone for one supreme idea—the idea of self government. If it had not been for the United States, there would have been no republics in South America today."

The orator then told of the protection to these republics by the United States under the Monroe doctrine. He spoke of the criticism of Monroe by Roosevelt, and said that Roosevelt would be fortunate if his name endured as long in history as did that of Pres. Monroe.

Champ Clark said that Americans always rise to meet the emergency. In illustration he told of the state of California, where 200,000 people rushed into the gold fields. With the crude means of transportation, it would have been impossible for them to communicate with the capital within a year. The citizens, with no authority from the United States called an election, and elected a full set of state and county officers, and also senators and congressmen. The first Washington knew of the move was when these representatives appeared at the seat of government with their own constitution and demanded admission.

October. As it now stands, the Congress which is repudiated has four months in which to legislate. The members have lost office, and do not have the interests of the nation at heart. It is our theory that the voice of the people shall rule, and I believe that it would be a good thing for the United States if we could adopt the plan in use there, in which the party in power resigns as soon as its policy is repudiated by the people. Another good feature of the English government is that the members of the Cabinet are members of the legislative body. The members of the Cabinet at any time may be brought into the house to answer questions relative to their departments. Here, it is impossible to cross examine a cabinet officer. If you ask him a question, he may have two or three weeks in which to trump up some flimsy excuse."

So far as the government of this country is concerned, it would be hard to conceive a more progressive speech or series of speeches than Champ Clark delivered along the Rock Island Wednesday. His lecture here teemed with interesting bits of history. He is a scholar, a

ter prospects for the country going Democratic next year than at any time since James Buchanan was elected. The party in Washington has been undergoing a great process of conciliation. It has been a long job of rubbing the hair the right way of the hide, over a year ago, more than half a little over a year ago, more than half of the Democrats in Congress bolted a party measure. Within a year and four days, we presented a solid front on a party measure which surprised our enemies. Every one knew I had a temper and they all said keep him in a good humor. I made up my mind right then and there I would work in harmony with the house, and redeem all of the party promises made in the last campaign. I am for the election of Senators by the people. I believe in the redemption of the party pledges. Honesty is always best policy and that is the only kind of politics I know. As far as I was concerned, we redeemed every promise made to carry that election. We promised to economize, and with that in view cut 115 employees off the list in the House, which meant a saving of \$200,000

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